



1000240763

English to be medium of instruction in Faculty: Prof

by Elizabeth Serai James

KUCHING – The Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) will be using English as the medium of instruction for all its courses in 2003/2004 session, said its dean Professor Murtedza Mohamed yesterday.

All courses in the Faculty would be conducted in English from the first semester, starting in May next year, until final semester.

He revealed that presently only 50 percent of the courses were taught in English for first year students; in second year 75 percent, while in third and final year all courses were taught in English.

"In the coming session all courses will be taught in English from first until the final year," said Murtedza when contacted by *Tribune* yesterday.

He was asked to comment on the statement made by Human Resource



PROFESSOR MURTEDZA

Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn recently that only 600 out of 13,000 graduates who registered with the Human Resource Ministry found jobs, while the rest were rejected due to their poor command of English and lack of communication skills.

He said: "This is expected because

employers are concerned with globalisation and are operating in the borderless world. It is a natural development."

He pointed out that, maybe, the education system in the country did not anticipate this to happen that soon. "So, the students are having that problem (poor in their command of English language) now."

He noted there was a need to take drastic measures like starting lessons in English.

On the level of command of English among students in the Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Murtedza said students were having difficulties but they had promised to work hard to improve, "so, we are helping them," he said.

Meanwhile, the deputy director of Students' Affair of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Kota Samarahan, Associate Professor Dr Jamil Hamali, said students needed to acquire certain skills before entering the job market.

"The graduates need to be wise.

Being gifted and talented alone are just not enough," said Jamil when contacted by *Tribune* at his office yesterday.

He pointed out that being wise was better than being smart. "For institutions of higher learning to help students to achieve this (become wise) is a challenge."

According to him, the Centre for Modern Management (CMM) conducts useful training programmes on effective communication, positive attitude, problem solving and various other courses to help prepare young graduates for working life.

"In institutions of higher learning, students are only taught on academic but not the training like what the CMM has," he added.

Jamil also stressed that "students can improve themselves by joining clubs and associations to help build up their self confidence. By joining clubs or associations they are forced to contact other people outside their social circle. These people might be their potential employer."